

Fellowship

II Corinthians 6

Introduction: The topic of fellowship has been a matter of dispute and discussion since the beginning. The issues of today over fellowship are not new and the bible clearly address them. Tonight we will address many questions often asked in the area of fellowship and make application of the truths found in God's Word.

I. What is "fellowship?"

A. Definition

1. Greek words
 - a) "Koinonia," means a close relationship
 - b) "Koinoneo," means to share or give a share
 - c) "Koinonos" means partner, companion, sharer
2. The idea of all the words used are to illustrate a relationship in which both parties share in the same action, benefit, or relation which is common to both parties. It can be used in relation to individuals or groups of individuals.

B. Examples in scripture

1. General uses in NT- Hebrews 2:14, Luke 5:10, Matthew 23:30
2. Spiritual uses in NT
 - a) II Corinthians 6:14-16
 - (1) yoked, fellowship, communion, concord, portion, agreement
 - (2) all of these uses denote a sharing in something of common ground
 - b) II Corinthians 6:17-7:1
 - (1) Ephesians 5:3-12- we have been cleansed of these things, never to go back to them
 - (2) Romans 1:32- we must not approve of them, lest we be condemned
 - (3) Revelation 18:1-5- we must "come out from among" them

II. Can We Fellowship Those in Error?

A. No

1. Ephesians 5:11
2. Jude 3-4

B. Paul exposed those in error

1. I Timothy 1:18-20
2. II Timothy 2:16-18

C. If we fellowship those in error we are partakers with them

1. I Corinthians 10:14-21
 - a) our communion cannot be with evil
 - b) we must commune with Christ alone
2. II John 9-11
 - a) the one teaching error is in sin
 - b) the one who accepts him is also

III. What about those who are "weak in the faith?" (Roman 14:1)

A. First let's note the context

1. Romans 6:1-23 those who continue to be slaves of sin are condemned

2. Romans 13:11-14 we are told not to make any provisions for the flesh
 3. Romans 16:17-19 we must mark those who cause division
- B. We must understand what “the Faith” is
1. It is something referred to frequently in Scripture- Acts 6:7, 13:8, 16:5, II Corinthians 13:5, Colossians 1:23, II Timothy 4:7, Jude 3
 2. It is all sufficient- II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:3-4, I Peter 4:11
 3. The Faith is something that is identifiable, knowable, teachable, and duplicatable- Jude 3, Ephesians 3:4, II Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:18-20
- C. Romans 14
1. These are things referred to “doubtful things”
 - a) eating of meats
 - b) observing days
 2. both were approved by God
 3. both were not to force beliefs on the other but to be fully convinced in their own mind
- D. Do sinful acts or teachings fit in Romans 14?

Conclusion: Fellowship is depicted in I John 1 as “light.” Error is represented by darkness. Light and darkness cannot co-exist. When one is present the other is not. John 3:19 tells us that some love darkness because their deeds are evil. The true question is, are you in darkness?